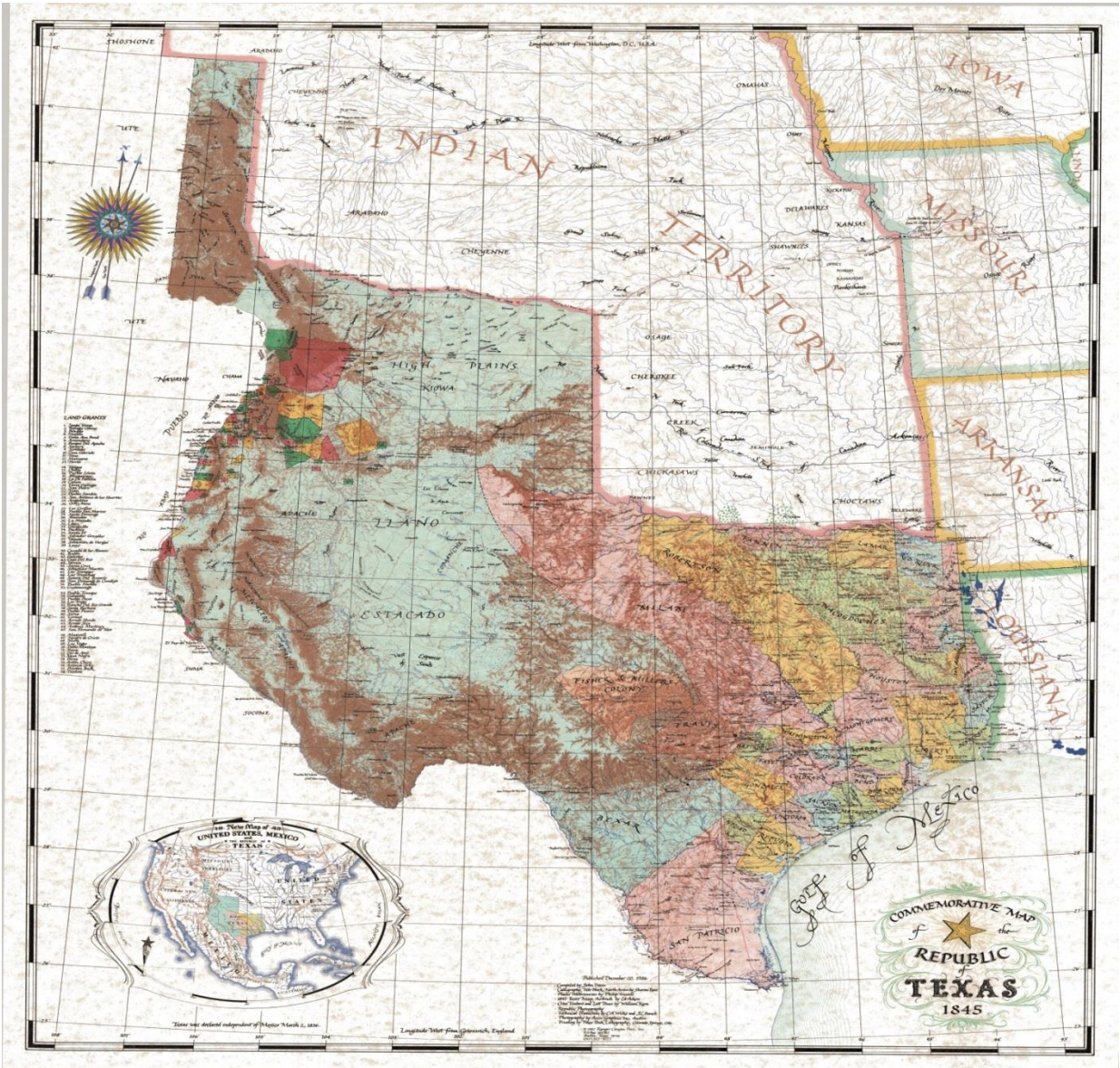


### Texas -Austin, Then and Now

Our great State of Texas has a fascinating history. Even more so when the young former Congressman and Governor of Tennessee, Sam Houston decided to ride his horse across the Red River into Texas and history. After the battle of San Jacinto and the provisional government, Gen. Houston and the members of the Republic of Texas Congress convened in Columbia, today known as West Columbia just east of Bay City. Here, in October 1836 they organized their new country before moving to the new capitol, Houston City in December. It was here that Houston lived and administered, along with his roommate, Dr. Ashbel Smith. What a country it was, going west all the way to New Mexico to the Rio Grande encompassing Santa Fe and Taos, and all the way north to Colorado into Wyoming.

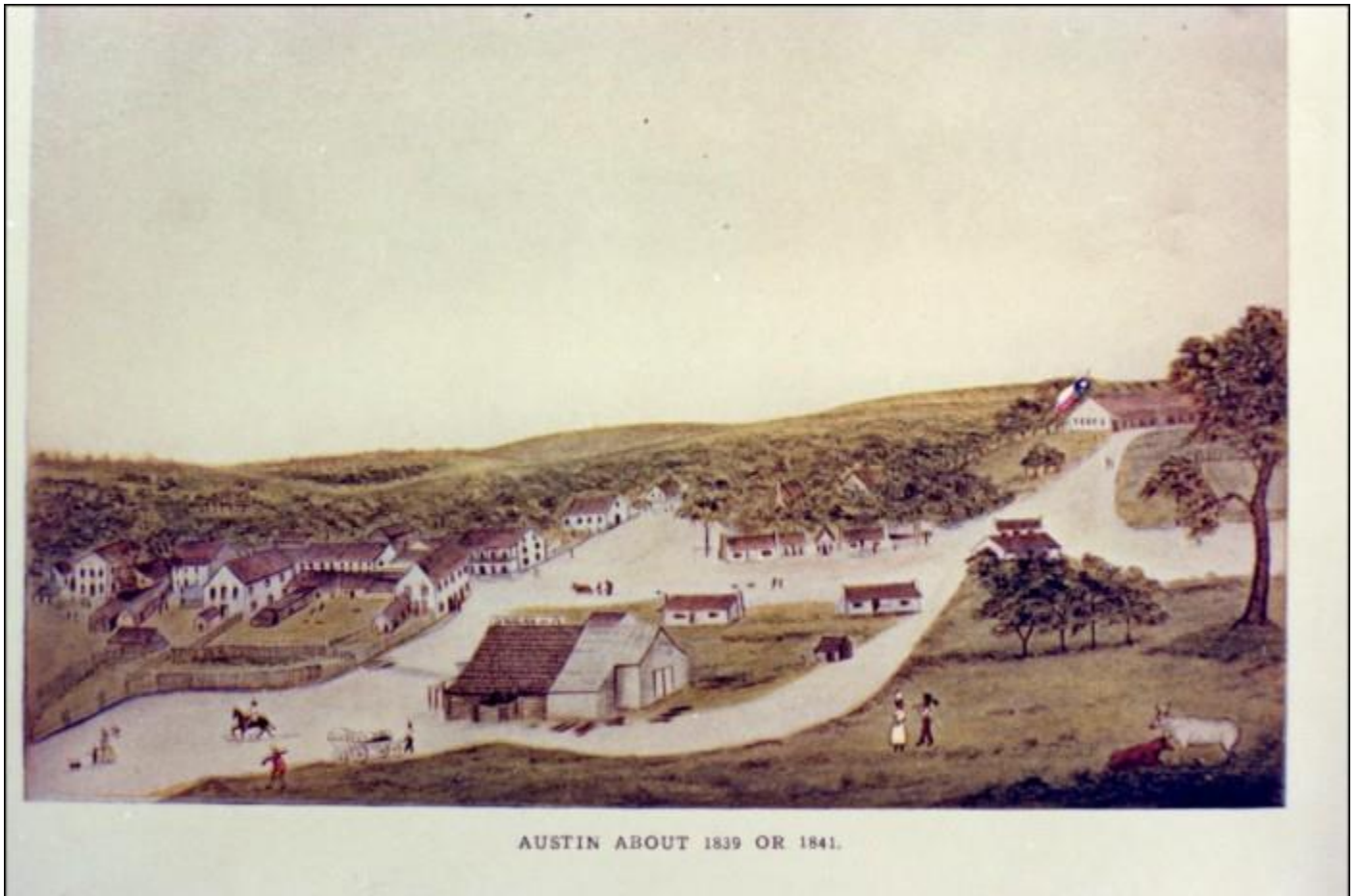




Gen. Houston was term limited and was succeeded after four years by Mirabeau Bonaparte Lamar. Lamar was a graduate of Princeton and he and Houston hated each other. After Lamar became the second President of the Republic of Texas in 1838, he ordered the Capital moved to Waterloo, which was renamed Austin after Stephen F. Austin. Houston returned to Nacogdoches as a member of the House in the Congress of the Republic. It took him probably a week to ride his horses to the new capital.

When Houston arrived he wrote his wife Margaret, that Austin was “the most unfortunate site upon Earth for the Seat of Government.” He went on to say, “There was not a house between there and Santa Fe.”

Bud Shrake in his historical novel The Borderlands wrote that if you went west on one of the original streets, West Avenue, you were in danger of being scalped. He said that if you went a few blocks further to Shoal Creek, you were dead.





East 6<sup>th</sup> St. Late 1800's



PICA 01100, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library





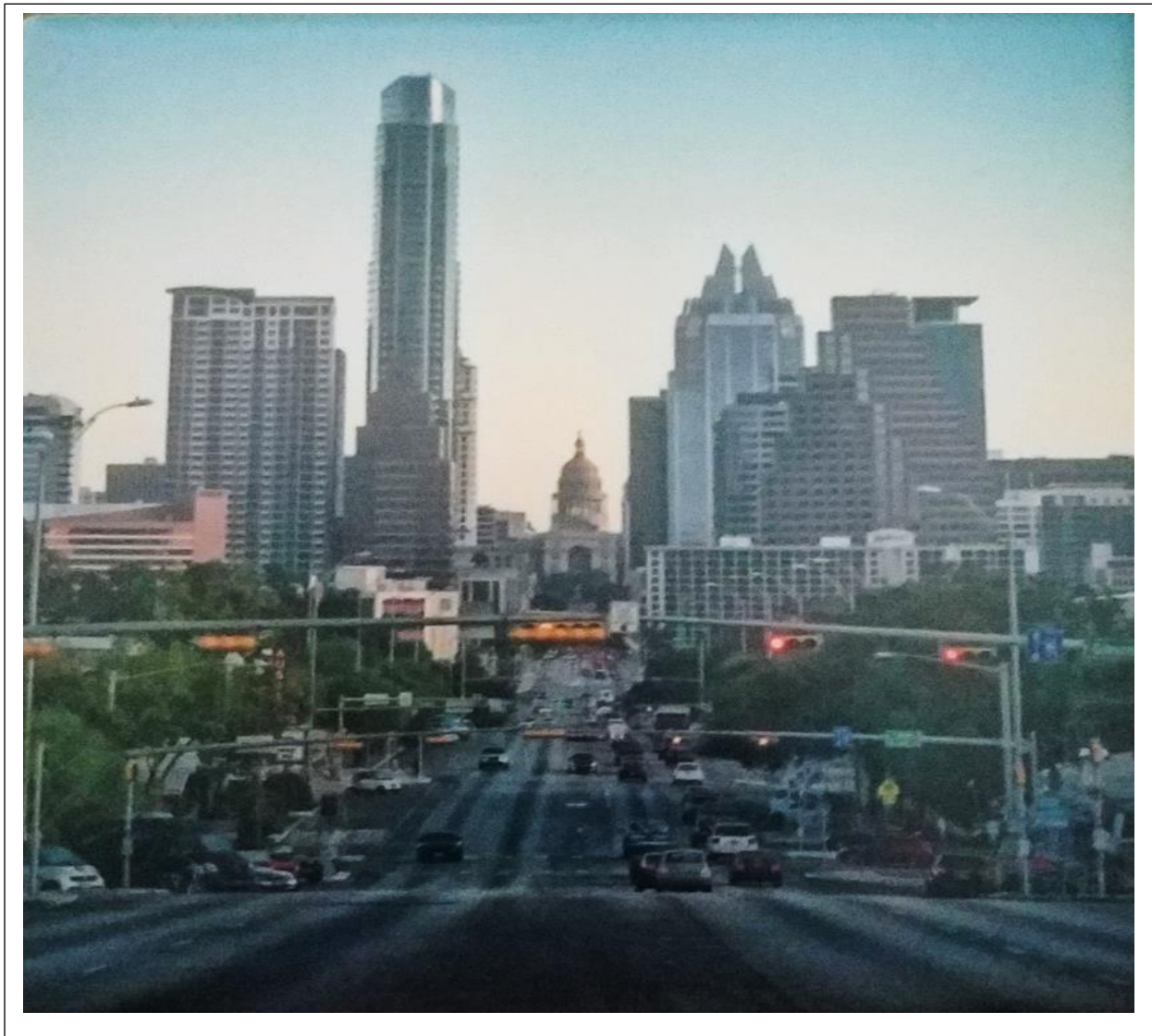


Austin in the 1950s



Looking west from the corner of East Sixth and Trinity Streets in the mid-1970s. Image: Texas Historical Commission

**And the rest, as they say, is history!**

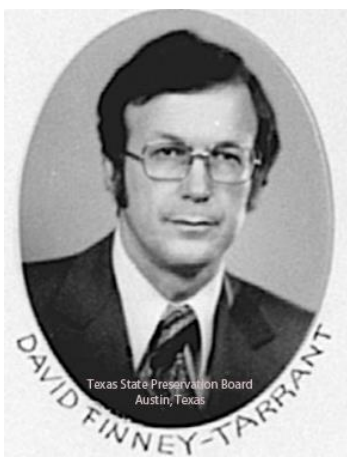


## **IN MEMORIAM**

Requiescat in pace

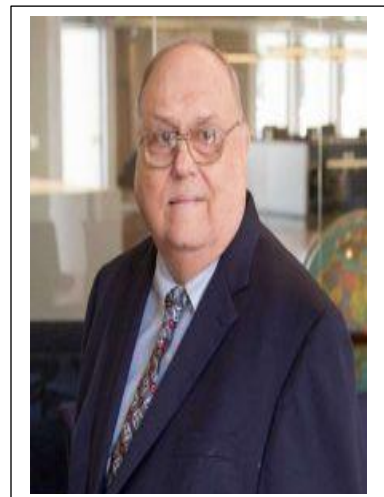
"The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He has me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside the still waters. He revives my soul; He guides me on paths of righteousness for His glory. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no harm, For you are with me ... Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, And I shall abide in the house of the Lord forever.

- Psalm 23



Rep. Dave Finney

b. 9-29-1933 d. 1-19-2022



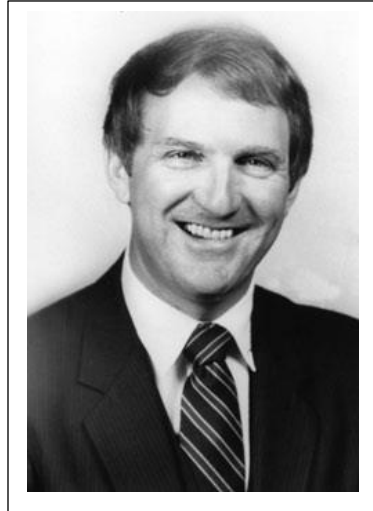
Rep. Lloyd Criss

b-1-17-1941 d. 5-10-2020 buried 1/22/2022

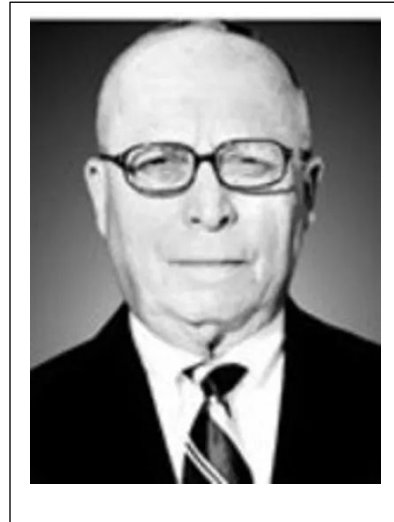




Rep. Keith Valigura  
b. 11-6-1957 d. 1-12-2021



Rep. Larry Warner  
b. 4-12-45 d. 2-7-2022



Harry Bradley  
Superintendent, State Cemetery



Linda Adams  
b. 10-10-1938 d. 10-6-2015



Rep. Sarah Weddington

The song below is in honor of Sen. Adam's wife Linda, as Don said, "the Love of my life," and Chairman Bock who lost his beloved wife Kathy one year ago Feb. 24.

Dan Fogelburg – Longer

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Go6l2\\_PpBU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Go6l2_PpBU)

[https://cemetery.tspb.texas.gov/pub/user\\_form822.asp?pers\\_id=12332](https://cemetery.tspb.texas.gov/pub/user_form822.asp?pers_id=12332)

Sarah Weddington passed away on Dec.26, 2021. Burial will be next Thursday, Feb. 10 at 1 p.m. at the state cemetery. It is a public service.

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/columnists/grieder/article/Erica-Grieder-Sarah-Weddington-s-legacy-16735060.php#photo-21867936>

**Robert I. “Bob” Kelly**

Many of us served with Robert I. “Bob” Kelly, House Parliamentarian, who passed away recently. Bob was mentored by Bob Johnson and spent almost his entire career at the Legislative Council. Rest in Peace Bob and as Nub Donaldson recently said, “We wish you fairways and greens.”

H.R. No. 1364

**R E S O L U T I O N**

WHEREAS, This year marks Robert I. "Bob" Kelly's 30th as a member of the legislative community, and it is a privilege to honor him for the vast contributions he has made to the work of this chamber; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kelly can truly say that he has given state government the best years of his life to date, for he began his tenure with the Texas Legislative Council on January 8, 1969, and under his expert stewardship the council has grown from a small operation where bills were drafted on typewriters to a major legislative support agency comprising 476 employees; and

WHEREAS, Far from limiting his service to the council alone, this respected gentleman first came to the chamber as assistant parliamentarian in the 64th Legislature and, after receiving his training from the master, Bob Johnson, over the course of three sessions, Mr. Kelly was named parliamentarian during the 67th Legislature, in which capacity he has reigned supreme ever since; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kelly became executive director of the council on March 1, 1980, and his management of the agency and knowledge of his staff's abilities is rivaled only by his mastery of the house rules and legislative process, and his love for golf and hunting; and

WHEREAS, With the session drawing to a close, it is most appropriate that we commend Mr. Kelly for completing yet another bogey-free round; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 76th Texas Legislature hereby honor Robert I. "Bob" Kelly for his exceptional service as parliamentarian during this regular session and extend to him sincere best wishes for a happy and relaxing interim; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Mr. Kelly as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.

Uher

Laney Alexander Allen	Glaze Goodman Goolsby	Moreno of El Paso Morrison Mowery
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**MEMBERS RECOVERING**

It has been a little more than one year since we started this publication to help us keep up with our friends and former colleagues in the Texas Legislature. We began The Capitol Post in Dec. of 2020 because of accidents and illness that occurred to three former lawmakers near the same time. Judge Nowlin is “progressing” and holding court; Chairman Stiles is coming along; “taking physical therapy”, and Chairman Telford, “so far so good.”\_Also, Chairman Bennie Bock, will have major surgery on Feb. 22.

## **Dome Boy's Blog**

I was thinking the other day of the amazing stories that we've been permitted to observe in the lege. For example generations that have served in the legislature.

In an earlier Post we explored the Hobby's. Then there are the Spears from San Antonio - J. Franklin Spears and his son Franklin Scott Spears, both Reps. And Senators. I have often told Scott Spears Jr. that he should have kept the family tradition going. And of course, the Lucio's, Sen. Eddie and his son, Eddie III, who recently resigned his seat held since 2006. Of course his dad isn't running for re-election either. Great members. Sad, but the way it goes. Who else is out there? Please let us know of other families that have served. I'm sure there are many. What a place.

Also, who do you think is the oldest living former member?

Well, until next time!

## **Top 5 Songs of the 1970s**

You've Got A Friend – James Taylor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xEklou3WFnM>

Will You Still Love Me, Tomorrow – Carole King

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xEklou3WFnM>

Bridge Over Troubled Water – Simon & Garfunkel

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4G-YQA\\_bsOU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4G-YQA_bsOU)

I Want to Make It With You -Bread

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aWMNOqLhZxg>

Tears In Heaven -Eric Clapton

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JxPj3GAYYZ0>

## **Legislative Clipping Service**

Since forever the interns have put together the printed version and distributed it to the offices. Did not realize that it's online. Wonder if they still print it?

<https://lrl.texas.gov/currentIssues/clips/lrlhome.cfm>

## **Capital projects**

This is an awesome link to the State Preservation Board that lists all the projects, past, present and future. Fascinating. Thanks Rod Welch!

<https://tspb.texas.gov/prop/tc/tc-projects/index.html>

## **The Texas Capitol –Building for the Ages**

A must watch about the people's building. Think that's Matthew McConaughey.

[https://youtu.be/Rz6fq0\\_QsbY](https://youtu.be/Rz6fq0_QsbY)



# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please join me in welcoming our former House and Senate colleagues. Thank you for joining the Capitol Group.



Sen. David Bernsen



Rep. Van Arsdale



Rep. Gary Walker

<https://lrl.texas.gov/legLeaders/members/lrlhome.cfm>



## **Our Neighbor to the West**



State Sens. Cliff Pirtle R-Roswell, left, and Bill O'Neill D-Albuquerque stand outside The Roundhouse as a light snow falls Wednesday morning. –The New Mexican

Here is a great article from the Santa Fe New Mexican about Sen. and Sen....

This takes me back to days when we worked together when we could, then went out and played golf and had dinner.

[https://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/legislature/n-m-senator-aims-to-overcome-partisan-drama-onstage/article\\_a48a99d8-7d5c-11ec-9082-771f64e71b8f.html](https://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/legislature/n-m-senator-aims-to-overcome-partisan-drama-onstage/article_a48a99d8-7d5c-11ec-9082-771f64e71b8f.html)